AMENDMENT

Amendments In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of accessing information within an electronic system comprising the steps of:

   a. formatting a searchable database within the electronic system into a directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each related item of data is categorized by a navigation path through the directory tree structure and by one or more ~~set~~ parameters, each parameter is set with a corresponding value associated with the data item thereby forming a set parameter, wherein the parameters are specific to the node in which the related data is included; and

   b. accessing a node within the directory tree structure using a query string, wherein the query string defines a navigation path through the directory tree structure to access a specific node within the directory tree structure.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of manually traversing the navigation path through the directory tree structure to access the node.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the step of manually traversing the navigation path is performed utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the step of manually traversing the navigation path is saved as the query string.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the saved query string is utilized to access the node without manually traversing the navigation path.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the related data is text, graphics, objects, links to other nodes within the directory tree structure, links to web sites external to the electronic system, or any combination thereof.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of accessing a node is performed by a server.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing an internet connection with the server to access a node.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the internet connection is established with a computer system at a remote location from the server.

11. (currently amended) A research system for accessing information within an electronic system comprising:

a. means for formatting a searchable database within the electronic system into a directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each related item of data is categorized by a navigation path through the directory tree structure and by one or more ~~set~~ parameters, each parameter is set with a corresponding value associated with the data item thereby forming a set parameter, wherein the parameters are specific to the node in which the related data is included; and

b. means for accessing a node within the directory tree structure using a query string, wherein the query string defines a navigation path through the directory tree structure to access a specific node within the directory tree structure.

12. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising means for manually traversing the navigation path through the directory tree structure to access the node.

13. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the means for manually traversing the navigation path includes utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search.

14. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for manually traversing the navigation path is saved as the query string.

15. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the saved query string is utilized to access the node without manually traversing the navigation path.

16. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the related data is text, graphics, objects, links to other nodes within the directory tree structure, links to web sites external to the electronic system, or any combination thereof.

17. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location.

18. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the means for accessing a node is performed by a server.

19. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising means for establishing an internet connection with the server to access a node.

20. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the internet connection is established with a computer system at a remote location from the server.

21. (currently amended) A research system for accessing information within an electronic system comprising a research server configured to format a searchable database within the electronic system into a directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each related item of data is categorized by a navigation path through the directory tree structure and by one or more ~~set~~ parameters, each parameter is set with a corresponding value associated with the data item thereby forming a set parameter, wherein the parameters are specific to the node in which the related data is included, and to access a node within the directory tree structure using a query string, wherein the query string defines a navigation path through the directory tree structure to access a specific node within the directory tree structure.

22. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 21 wherein the research server is utilized by a user to manually traversing the navigation path through the directory tree structure to access the node.

23. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the navigation path is manually traversed by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search.

24. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the manually traversed navigation path is saved as the query string.

25. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 24 wherein the saved query string is utilized to access the node without manually traversing the navigation path.

26. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 21 wherein the related data is text, graphics, objects, links to other nodes within the directory tree structure, links to web sites external to the electronic system, or any combination thereof.

27. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 21 wherein the searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location.

28. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 27 further comprising an interface circuit coupled to the research server to establish a connection with a computer system.

29. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 28 wherein the connection is established with the computer system at a remote location from the interface circuit.

30. (original) The research system as claimed in claim 29 wherein the connection is established with the remote computer system and the interface circuit over the internet to allow users to access the research system and to access a node.

31. (currently amended) A network of devices for accessing information within an electronic system comprising:

a. one or more computer systems configured to establish a connection with other systems; and

b. a research server coupled to the one or more computer systems to format a searchable database within the electronic system into a directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each related item of data is categorized by a navigation path through the directory tree structure and by one or more ~~set~~ parameters, each parameter is set with a corresponding value associated with the data item thereby forming a set parameter, wherein the parameters are specific to the node in which the related data is included, and to access a node within the directory tree structure using a query string, wherein the query string defines a navigation path through the directory tree structure to access a specific node within the directory tree structure.

32. (original) The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the research server is utilized by a user to manually traverse the navigation path through the directory tree structure to access the node.

33. (original) The network of devices as claimed in claim 32 wherein the navigation path is manually traversed by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search.

34. (original) The network of devices as claimed in claim 33 wherein the manually traversed navigation path is saved as the query string.

35. (original) The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the saved query string is utilized to access the node without manually traversing the navigation path.

36. (original) The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the related data is text, graphics, objects, links to other nodes within the directory tree structure, links to web sites external to the electronic system, or any combination thereof.

37. (original) The network of devices research system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location.

38. (original) The network of devices as claimed in claim 31 wherein the one or more computer systems and the notification server are coupled together over the internet to allow users to access the research system and to access a node.